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SERIAL NUMBER	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY OR COUNSEL NO.
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EXAMINER
JORDAN, K.

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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125

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DATE MAILED: 09/20/91

This is a communication from the examiner in charge of your application.
COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

This application has been examined Responsive to communication filed on _____ This action is made final.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), 0 days from the date of this letter.
Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. 35 U.S.C. 133

Part I THE FOLLOWING ATTACHMENT(S) ARE PART OF THIS ACTION:

1. Notice of References Cited by Examiner, PTO-892.
2. Notice re Patent Drawing, PTO-948.
3. Notice of Art Cited by Applicant, PTO-1449.
4. Notice of Informal Patent Application, Form PTO-152
5. Information on How to Effect Drawing Changes, PTO-1474.
6.

Part II SUMMARY OF ACTION

1. Claims 1-10 are pending in the application.
Of the above, claims _____ are withdrawn from consideration.
2. Claims _____ have been cancelled.
3. Claims _____ are allowed.
4. Claims 1-10 are rejected.
5. Claims _____ are objected to.
6. Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.
7. This application has been filed with informal drawings under 37 C.F.R. 1.85 which are acceptable for examination purposes.
8. Formal drawings are required in response to this Office action.
9. The corrected or substitute drawings have been received on _____. Under 37 C.F.R. 1.84 these drawings are acceptable; not acceptable (see explanation or Notice re Patent Drawing, PTO-948).
10. The proposed additional or substitute sheet(s) of drawings, filed on _____, has (have) been approved by the examiner; disapproved by the examiner (see explanation).
11. The proposed drawing correction, filed _____, has been approved; disapproved (see explanation).
12. Acknowledgement is made of the claim for priority under U.S.C. 119. The certified copy has been received not been received been filed in parent application, serial no. _____; filed on _____.
13. Since this application appears to be in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.
14. Other

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Claims 1-10 are presented for examination.

The amendment received on June 12, 1991 has been entered.

Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for priority based on an application filed in China on August 8, 1990 and April 24, 1991. It is noted, however, that applicant has not filed a certified copy of the Chinese application as required by 35 U.S.C. § 119.

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Specifically:

1) Claim 1 is rendered indefinite by failing to recite a carrier for the drugs to be used in the composition.

2) Claims 1-4 are rendered indefinite by the phrase "synergistically effective amount" which is unclear as to what such an amount is or how such an amount is defined.

3) Claim 9 is rendered indefinite by failing to recite a clear dosage or amount that is to be administered. The remaining claims are indefinite to the extent that they depend on the rejected claims.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103 which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section

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102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Subject matter developed by another person, which qualifies as prior art only under subsection (f) or (g) of section 102 of this title, shall not preclude patentability under this section where the subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103, the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of potential 35 U.S.C. § 102(f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Wang et al. (R) and Sethi et al. (S).

The claims appear to be drawn to compositions and methods for treating malaria with benflumetol and arteether analogues. Wang et al. discloses that benflumetol is a known antimalarial drug. Sethi et al. discloses that arteether is a known antimalarial drug. The claimed subject matter differs from the disclosure of the primary references in claiming the combination of both drugs at the same time for the same purpose and specific amounts to be combined together. It is prima facie obvious to combine two compositions each of which is taught by prior art to

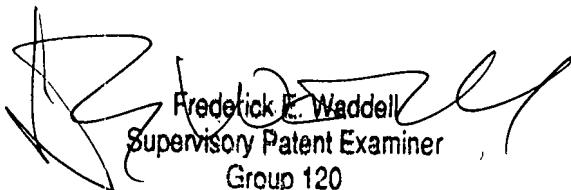
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be useful for the same purpose in order to form a third composition that is to be used for the very same purpose. The idea of combining them flows logically from their having been individually taught in the prior art. Thus, claims that require no more than mixing together of two known antimalarial drugs set forth *prima facie* obvious subject matter. (In re Kerkhoven, 205 U.S.P.Q. 1069). The claimed subject matter fails to patentably distinguish over the state of the art as represented by the cited references.

No claims are allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kimberly Jordan whose telephone number is (703) 308-4611.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1235.


Frederick E. Waddell
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 120

Jordan:st
September 18, 1991